



November 2011

Giving Thanks

With Thanksgiving on the horizon, some educators may still be searching for ways to teach about this popular holiday in a way that includes and honors Native perspectives. Visit our Hot Topics link, [THANKSGIVING 2011, Resources, Links and Lessons](#) for these resources.

Background resources for all grade levels:

- Article and Video link on Thanksgiving from history.com - <http://www.history.com/content/thanksgiving/the-first-thanksgiving>
- Interactive website that allows students to tour a re-enacted village that actually exists in Massachusetts. The history is accurate and the Wampanoag and colonists are well portrayed. www.plimoth.org
- From the National Museum of the American Indian - <http://www.nmai.si.edu/education>
(Click on the "print resources" link on the left, check out the Thanksgiving Poster and the Thanksgiving Study Guide.)
- "Deconstructing the Myths of the First Thanksgiving" and more - http://www.oyate.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=53&Itemid=69
- Wampanoag tribe information - <http://www.wampanoagtribe.net/Pages/index>
- "Rethinking Thanksgiving: Myths and Misgivings" from Rethinking Schools, Fall 2009, Vol. 24, Number 1. The article has some excellent background information and links to other resources. http://www.rethinkingschools.org/archive/24_01/24_01_thanksgiving.shtml

- In Memoriam in honor of Chief Jake Swamp, a member of the Wolf Clan whose Mohawk name "Tekaronhianeken" means "where two skies come together" and sub-chief of the Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) confederacy, passed away Oct. 15, 2010 in Massena, N.Y. He was 68. Swamp was a diplomat, author, teacher, chief, husband, father, grandparent, great-grandparent and friend to many. These words of thanks are taken from his book ***Giving Thanks A Native American Good Morning Message***:

*To be a human being is an honor, and we offer
thanksgiving for all the gifts of life. Mother Earth, we thank
you for giving us everything we need.
Thank you, good foods from Mother Earth, our life
sustainers, for making us happy when we are hungry.
Fruits and berries, we thank you for your color and
sweetness. We are thankful to good medicine herbs, for
healing us when we are sick.*

- We Shall Remain – PBS video series – can be accessed on-line.
Episode One: After the Mayflower
http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/weshallremain/the_films/episode_1_t_railer
- More resources from PBS - **PBS CELEBRATES NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH November 2011 on PBS**

PBS honors the history and contributions of Native Americans with a great lineup of new and encore programs that entertain while examining the history and cultural contributions of Native Americans.

New programming is bolstered by encore programming including INDEPENDENT LENS and AMERICAN EXPERIENCE

<http://pressroom.pbs.org/Programs/Native-American-Month-2011.aspx>

Lesson idea for primary grades:

- Have students ask their families or research harvest festivals, considering: Where does our food come from? How are we similar to our neighbors?

Model lessons for middle grades:

- Model Lesson for Language Arts/Social Studies, Grades 5-8 (adaptable for both younger and older) Based on the book *1621 A New Look At Thanksgiving* by Catherine O'Neill Grace and Margaret M. Bruchac, With Plimoth Plantation. [Thanksgiving](#)
- Model lesson for Social Studies, Middle School - [Colonization and American Indian Perspectives](#)
Lesson includes these questions....
 - What have you learned about the first Thanksgiving?
 - Why is it important to look at issues from multiple perspectives?
 - What are some of the reasons American Indians might have a different view regarding how Thanksgiving has been traditionally taught and celebrated in our schools?

Model lesson for high school:

- Model Lesson for Social Studies, High School - [The Colonization Era – An Interview with Dr. James Loewen](#)

SAVE THE DATE!

6th Annual Indian Education for All Best Practices
Conference
February 27-28, 2012
Billings – Crowne Plaza Hotel

Understanding our Differences, Valuing our Connections – Building and Maintaining Culturally Responsive Relationships

Connecting to the work that has been carried on during the last five years to successfully and comprehensively implement Indian Education for All across Montana's diverse communities, the theme for this year's conference will

explore the importance of crossing cultural and community divides to establish strong and productive relationships.

Please consider sharing your knowledge and experiences related to this topic by submitting a conference presentation proposal. The [Call for Proposals form](#) will be available until December 30.

The Indian Education Division and Office of Public Instruction will also be soliciting nominations for an important opportunity – the Advocacy Award for Excellence in Indian Education for All, in honor of one of Montana’s finest educators, Teresa Veltkamp. Nomination forms for the award will be available December 15th at [OPI Indian Education Hot Topics](#). Please give consideration to this opportunity to acknowledge an outstanding educator’s efforts in the promotion of and steadfast support for Indian Education for All.

A registration form for the conference will also be available by December 15th at [OPI Indian Education Hot Topics](#). A block of sleeping rooms is available at the Crowne Plaza (252-7400) under OPI Best Practices until January 26th.

Resource Spotlight

The OPI Indian Education Division has recently sent the following new resources to school libraries:

Model Teaching Unit, Language Arts – Grades 4-8 for Larry Loyie’s *As Long As the Rivers Flow* (sent to schools with grades 4 – 8)

As Long As The Rivers Flow tells the story of Larry Loyie’s final summer with his family in 1944 before he and his siblings were required to leave for St. Bernard Indian Residential School located in Alberta, Canada. Uniquely, this book provides insight into the traditional ways children in Lawrence’s family were educated by their elders in traditional Cree life ways before boarding school attendance, in stark contrast to the regimented instruction they were later to receive in the boarding school. This book is a high quality early chapter book with rich illustrations and picture support for readers of a variety of reading levels. An epilogue on the boarding school experience, including photos shared by Larry Loyie of his family and historic boarding school photos is included. The language arts unit, written by Tammy Elser,

provides a variety of rich reading strategies, photographs, primary and secondary source documents, and extension activities.

***Huckleberries, Buttercups, and Celebrations*, by Jennifer Greene and illustrated by Antoine Sandoval. Published 2011 by Nsputin Press, Arlee, Montana** (sent to K-8 schools)

From “The Shake Hands and The Shooting Month” to “The Trapping Month,” Salish poet Jennifer Greene shares the seasonal and cultural activities of each month as seen through a child’s eyes. Jennifer’s sonnets portray the cycles of a year that blend the strength and beauty of the past in the magic of the seasons today on the Flathead Indian Reservation. Salish and Dine’ artist Antoine Sandoval creates images that teach and celebrate a living culture.

In the introduction, Julie Cajune states, “The Salish calendar months were named for the unique activity or characteristic of each season. These names and their meanings persist today. ... To honor the language, the Salish names for each month will appear along with their common English meaning.”

Works in progress:

- A language arts model teaching unit (Grades 4-8) based on Louise Erdrich’s *The Birchbark House*
- A poetry anthology (Middle and High School)
- Fort Peck Place Names: Building Worldviews Using Traditional Cultures and Google Earth

For more resources, please visit the OPI Indian Education Web site at <http://www.opi.mt.gov/Programs/IndianEd/Index.html>

Thank you for working to include both historic and contemporary portrayals of American Indian issues and perspectives into your curriculum.

Early Childhood Education Best Practices

The HOPA StoryMakers yearly Fall Gathering Conference was held in Great Falls, October 5-7, 2011, to present Best Practices in Early Childhood Education. The OPI Indian Education division in partnership with Montana's HOPA Story Makers literacy program helps supply early childhood literature to hundreds of children and families across Montana. Over thirty HOPA volunteers attended to collaborate with each other and gather current information in preparation for their community site distributions. There are currently twenty-seven sites across Montana, many that are on or near Montana's seven reservations. Volunteers plan family literacy activities for the book distributions to help support families' literacy interactions with their young children. Included in the conference were local tours of the Great Falls early childhood ELF Center and the Paris Gibson early childhood facility.

Visit the OPI Indian Education [Early Childhood](#) web page for resources and information useful for Montana educators, care providers and families regarding best practices in early learning.

Did You Know...?

Essential Understandings Are the Backbone of IEFA

What do Montanans really need to know about American Indians? It's a big question, and the answer is vital to fulfilling the promise of Indian Education for All. Representatives from all Montana tribes came together for three days in 1999, calling on their cultural expertise to create a document (sent to all school libraries) articulating major issues all tribes have in common and promoting a greater knowledge about American Indians in Montana. Called ***Essential Understandings Regarding Montana Indians*** they form the basis for IEFA curriculum efforts and initiatives. [Click here](#) for a summary of each Essential Understanding. The concepts in brief:

- EU 1– Tribal Diversity
- EU 2 – Individual Diversity
- EU 3 – Beliefs, Spirituality, Oral History
- EU 4 – Reservations were reserved by tribes
- EU 5 – Federal Indian Policy
- EU 6 – History from Indian Perspectives
- EU 7 – Tribal Sovereignty

Professional Development Available

Is IEFA professional development on the agenda for your next PIR day or staff meeting? A [**Professional Development**](#) section on the Indian Education website lists available learning modules, both on site trainings and online presentations. Visit the website to view the list of IEFA topics offered. Indian Education Division staff may visit your school to provide professional development, free of charge, OR webinars and presentations can be accessed on the OPI Indian Education for All website.

If you do not wish to receive the IEFA Ledger in your email, please click on "Unsubscribe" below. You may view the IEFA Ledger on the OPI website -

<http://opi.mt.gov/Programs/IndianEd/Index.html>

About Us

The Indian Education office supports the efforts of local education agencies, Indian tribes and organizations, postsecondary institutions, and other entities to meet the unique educational and culturally related academic needs of American Indians. The Indian Education office also works to assure that Article X, section 1(2) and MCA 20-1-501 are met by educational agencies so ALL Montanans leave the education system with an understanding of the distinct and unique cultural heritage of American Indians.

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